

Message Text

SECRET

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 EB-11 AGR-20 SWF-02 DRC-01

/159 W

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R 091032Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 717

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

CINCPAC

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 6933

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, LA

SUBJECT: VANG PAO IN THAILAND

REFS: A) STATE 195092

B) CHIANG MAI 343 (NOTAL)

1. INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE CONFIRMS REF B ACCOUNT OF PURPOSE AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF GENERAL VANG PAO'S VISIT TO CHIANG MAI AUGUST 28-31.

2. VISIT WAS FOR SOLE PURPOSE OF INSPECTING VARIOUS UN AND THAI GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN AND AROUND CHIANG MAI TO DETERMINE THEIR APPLICABILITY TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN MR-II, WHICH HAS SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. VISIT WAS ARRANGED BY THE THAI AND INVOLVED PRINCE PISADET RACHANEE, THE KING'S UNDP DIRECTOR AT CHIANG MAI. VANG PAO RECEIVED PRIOR APPROVAL FOR VISIT FROM PGNU MINISTER OF DEFENSE SISOUK AND FROM THE FAR

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GENERAL STAFF. TRANSPORTATION FROM VIENTIANE TO CHIANG

MAI AND RETURN WAS BY COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT.

3. AFTER READING THE INACCURATE AUGUST 30 ARTICLE IN THAI NEWSPAPER PRACHATEATAI, WHICH ACCUSED HIM OF BEING IN CHIANG MAI FOR POLITICAL REASONS, VANG PAO RELUCTANTLY HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT--DESPITE FACT HE HAD MADE EVERY EFFORT TO AVOID PUBLICITY DURING HIS VISIT. AT THE CONFERENCE, HE MADE CLEAR THAT HIS SOLE PURPOSE IN VISITING CHIANG MAI WAS TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF AND HIS AIDES WITH AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY THOSE FOCUSED ON THE HILLTRIBES, IN THE CHIANG MAI AREA.

4. AS IF TO CONFIRM INNOCUOUS NATURE OF VISIT, VANG PAO ON SEPTEMBER 8 SHOWED U.S. MISSION VISITORS A SAMPLING OF CANNED FRUIT, PRESERVES, ETC. THAT HE HAD BROUGHT BACK FROM CHIANG MAI.
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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